

This Week In Agriculture

June 12-18, 2005

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Handbook has appeal to Idaho's agricultural

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Governor Dirk Kempthorne told reporters Tuesday that his team's recent trade mission to Asia was an unqualified success.

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"The fact that we met with so many high ranking officials in each of the countries puts Idaho at the front of the line when there's business to be done," the governor told reporters.

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"Audiences with such important people give our businesses a stamp of approval and sends a message to all the businesses of those respective countries that Idaho is a great partner.

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Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Taka-

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sugi credited the governor with having the foresight to conduct not only one trade mission, but multiple trade missions that build upon previous efforts.

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Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi addresses reporters at Governor Kempthorne's press conference following the trade delegation's return from the trade mission to Asia.

continue for years to come, creating new opportunities for Idaho farmers and companies. Takasugi said there's no limit to the demand for Idaho agricultural products overseas.

See Trade Mission page 2



You are invited to take part in Idaho's next trade mission. Details at www.idahoag.us



New forage handbook available

Idahoans who grow hay crops or manage pasture for horses and other animals can order a new handbook with the latest information on forages, their management and use.

"Idaho Forage Handbook," in its third edition costs \$10 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling.

The book was originally published in 1975 and 1990. Alfalfa, corn and cereal grains are covered in the book, which also discusses new and improved grasses and legumes for dryland, irrigated and wetland environments.

"This is a publication that

small farm owners, people with horse pastures and experienced hay growers will want to have because it has lots of information all in one book," said Glenn Shewmaker, a UI extension forage specialist. "Much of the information is specific to Idaho, and it's so new that you won't see it in other places."

Dan Ogle of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Boise called the book a "state-of-the-art forage reference that has volumes more information than the previous version. It

should allow readers to do a much better job of establishing and managing their forage plantings."

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture, NRCS and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) contributed to the publication's development.

Authors and reviewers include experts from the University of Idaho, University of Wisconsin, NRCS and ARS.

IRP announces new rural resource directory

The Idaho Rural Partnership has announced the creation of a new resource directory.

The directory is designed to replace a printed version from 2001. The new web-based edition will be more easily managed



and updated, said IRP Executive Director Dale Dixon.

The online resource will also

include a fully-searchable database, Dixon said.

To register your information for the directory, go online to www.irp.idaho.gov.

The Idaho Rural Partnership helps join public and private resources in an effort to strengthen Idaho's many rural communities.

Trade mission

(continued from page 1)

Dean Cameron, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the trips are good for Idaho's economic well-being.

"These Asian companies are going to do business with somebody," Cameron said. "They're

going to buy wheat from somebody. They're going to buy their beef from somebody. They're already buying it from Australia and



Senator Dean Cameron

New Zealand. Why not buy it from Idaho businesses? That is what this trade mission was all about."

The next trade mission is scheduled for October.

Did you know that 90 percent of Taiwan's wheat imports come from the U.S.

[USDA extends comment period on Animal ID]

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has extended the comment period on a notice seeking public comment about the national animal identification system (NAIS).

The extension is "so that all interested parties have time to

Ron DeHaven, APHIS Administrator.

A comprehensive description of NAIS system standards will be determined over time through field trials, user experience and the federal rule-making process.

However, the draft documents currently available lay out in more detail projected timelines and potential avenues to achieve system milestones.

How to be heard

A comment form is available on the NAIS home page at

www.usda.gov/nais.

prepare and submit information for our evaluation," said Dr.

'A Chef's Affaire' features Idaho foods, wines

Idaho products will figure prominently in a fund-raiser benefiting the Idaho Foodbank and the "Chefs to the Rescue" prepared food recovery program.

Idaho Preferred™ has joined sponsors of the seventh annual "A Chef's Affaire."

The fundraiser will feature a five-course sit-down gourmet dinner prepared by teams of Boise's finest chefs and live auction of 20 of Idaho's best chefs.

A silent auction of items including dining packages, getaways and entertainment will

also be held.

The dinner will include some of Idaho's finest products, including Kobe Beef, Idaho Ruby trout, and pork tenderloin. Idaho wines will also be exclusively served.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture administers the Idaho Preferred™ program, which promotes the availability, diversity and quality of the state's locally-grown products.

"The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is pleased that Idaho's best chefs are using the best prod-

ucts available for their meals — Idaho products," said Leah Clark, manager of the Idaho Preferred™ program. "We're also thrilled that once again Idaho agricultural products are going to a worthy cause."

The black tie optional event will be held Friday, June 10, at the Boise Centre on the Grove from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$85 or \$160 per couple, and can be purchased through Select-a-Seat or by contacting the Idaho Foodbank at 208-336-9643.

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Upcoming smoke management classes

Monday, June 13

8 a.m. at the Fruitland Community Center, 209 S. Iowa, Fruitland (Turn north on Iowa at the school district office; the community center is directly behind)

7 p.m. at the Canyon County Farm Bureau board room, 4122 E. Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell

Tuesday, June 14

8 a.m. at the Twin Falls County Farm Bureau board room, 2732 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls.

7 p.m. at the Mini-Cassia Farm Bureau board room, 444 E. 5th N., Burley.

Wednesday, June 15

8 a.m. at the Bingham County Farm Bureau board room, 124 N. Oak, Blackfoot

7 p.m. at the Franklin County Farm Bureau board room, 33 S. 1st East, Preston

Thursday, June 16

8 a.m. at the Bonneville County Farm Bureau board room, 1655 Holipark Drive, Idaho Falls

7 p.m. at the Madison County Farm Bureau board room, 1116 Bond Ave., Rexburg



Awards go to Wilcox, Bean Commission

Wilcox Marketing Group and the Idaho Bean Commission have received awards for their efforts in opening foreign markets at the Governor's Export Marketing Awards at World Trade Day last week.

Wilcox Marketing Group received recognition for its efforts in shipping potatoes to Mexico. Lynn Wilcox, president, and Terry Wilcox, secretary, accepted the award.

Wilcox Marketing Group has lead Idaho in exports to Mexico.

"We appreciate the Idaho State Department of Agriculture guidance in this venture," Lynn Wilcox said when receiving the award.

Arturo Rodriguez of Wilcox Marketing Group was unable to be there.

The Idaho Bean Commission received recognition for opening the Mexican border for Idaho Certi-

fied bean seed. This effort spans years of hard work that started on the Governor's Trade Mission in 2003.

Brent Zeyer, Commissioner, and Diana Caldwell, Administrator, accepted the award on behalf of the Idaho Bean Commission. In accepting the award, Caldwell acknowledged the support of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's marketing bureau.

Did you Know:

Idaho has one of the largest and longest running shipping point programs in the United States

Annually, the program performs inspections on 11 different commodities and certifies over 10 billion pounds of produce.

This Week in Agriculture is a publication of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.
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The deadline to submit all articles is 10 a.m. Thursday